

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**August 19, 2004**

For immediate release

- 1. Health alert to remain at Carter Lake due to high blue-green algae toxins**
- 2. DNR enforcement actions**

## **HEALTH ALERT TO REMAIN AT CARTER LAKE DUE TO HIGH BLUE-GREEN ALGAE TOXINS**

CARTER LAKE, IA — A health alert urging people to avoid contact with the water at Carter Lake will remain in place because of a toxin associated with blue-green algae. Carter Lake, located west of the Missouri River, has portions of its surface located in both Iowa and Nebraska. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality issued the health alert.

The health alert is in place at Carter Lake for a toxin known as microcystin, a product of blue-green algae. The alert warns the public against full-body contact with the water, including swimming, water skiing, jet skiing, sailboarding and tubing on the lake while the health alert is in effect.

Test samples collected Monday at Carter Lake showed that two of six sampling sites returned high results. The health alert will continue until Iowa and Nebraska find that all sampling locations at Carter Lake are below the state's threshold for declaring a Health Alert (15 parts per billion of the toxin microcystin).

“Levels are still high, but they appear to be coming down,” said Mary Skopec, head of the Iowa DNR's water monitoring program. “We're planning on sampling the lake again on Monday.”

Both the Iowa and Nebraska public health agencies are urging the public to pay particular attention to small children and pets, to make sure they don't come in contact with the water. Recreational boating and fishing is permitted, as long as the public makes sure to avoid situations that could possibly involve the ingestion of water. People can still use the areas for camping, picnics and other outdoor activities. Nebraska Game and Parks

officials suggest that anglers practice catch-and-release fishing, as the toxins created by the algae can accumulate in the organs of fish.

Health risks to humans include skin rashes and itchy skin. Ingesting the water can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Iowa has been monitoring 132 lakes for blue-green algae and a toxin known as microcystin. Although none of Iowa's lakes have yet been tested at levels as high as the lakes in Nebraska that have had health alerts, Carter Lake has had the highest results of Iowa's lakes and only during the recent testing sample did it exceed the 15 parts per billion standard.

Precautions that should be taken to prevent health-related problems due to harmful algal blooms include:

- Don't swim, water ski or boat in areas where the water is discolored or if there is foam, scum or mats of algae on the water.
- If swimming in water that might have a harmful algal bloom, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Don't let pets or livestock swim in or drink from areas where water is discolored, or if there is foam, scum or mats of algae on the water.
- Don't let pets (especially dogs) lick the algae off their fur after swimming in scummy water.
- Don't irrigate lawns or golf courses with pond water that looks scummy or has a bad odor.

A fact sheet regarding blue-green algae is available on the following link at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Web site:

<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/puh/epi/CyanobacteriaFactSheet.pdf>

**For more information, contact Mary Skopec of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at (319) 335-1575.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Chad Oltmanns, of Plymouth County, was ordered to dispose of all dead animals in a correct and timely manner, to cease the illegal disposal of solid waste and to pay a \$3,000 penalty.

- Roger Escher, of Washington, was ordered to cease the improper disposal of dead animals and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the improper disposal of about five dead cattle in Washington County. The order has been appealed.
- David Niklasen, of Walnut, was ordered to cease the improper disposal of dead animals and to pay a \$2,900 penalty. The order is in regards to the improper disposal of about 98 dead cattle at an open feedlot.
- Verlyn and LeAnn VanRegenmorter, of Sioux Center, were ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Cash Brewer, of Cherokee, was ordered to immediately cease operation at his two animal feeding operations and to remove animals from the facilities until the manure storage structures at the sites have been emptied, removed manure has been land-applied and all dead animals have been properly disposed. Brewer was also ordered to submit manure management plans for the facilities, to totally retain all manure produced in confinement units between periods of manure disposal, and to remove and properly land-apply manure to prevent discharge. Brewer was also ordered to comply with all manure release reporting requirements, to cease the illegal disposal of solid waste and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Darron Rusk, of Linn Grove, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan (MMP) and pay a \$750 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an updated MMP for a confinement facility in Clay County. The order has been appealed.
- B&B Sandhill Swine Inc., of Olin, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP. The order has been appealed.
- CJ Acres, of Sioux County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Van Der Weide Farms, of Sioux County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- James VerMeer, of Sioux County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- R&D Farms, of Sioux County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP. The order has been appealed.

- Kenneth Sandstrom and M&K Management, of Webster County, were ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Marty McDermott, of Delmar, was ordered to pay a \$750 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit an updated manure management plan and fee for a facility in Clinton County. The order has been appealed.
- Prestage Farms of Iowa, LLC, of Ames, was ordered to comply with manure control requirements. The order is in regards to manure from a confinement feeding operation that was land-applied in Hamilton County and caused water pollution in Long Dick Creek.
- Dennis Rowenhorst, of Sioux County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- HOIC Hauling, L.C. and Joel Hovick, of Story City, were ordered to comply with manure control requirements and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order is in regards to applying confinement feeding operation manure to land in Hamilton County, causing water pollution in Long Dick Creek.
- HPD Pork and Harold Dekkers, of Sioux County, were ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Daniel Wilson, of Prairie City, was ordered to comply with minimum manure control and manure release reporting requirements and to pay a \$6,000 penalty. Wilson was also ordered to submit documentation that he has developed and implemented an employee training program and manure handling/release protocol. The order is in regards to a swine confinement operation in Poweshiek County.
- Vern Buchholz, of Waverly, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Walnut Crest Acres, Limited, of Iowa County, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Steve Van Utrecht, of New Sharon, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan. The order has been appealed.

- Alan Thomann, of Riverside, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Don & Bill Adam Inc., of Richland, were ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Marvin Maassen and Maassen & Sons, of Sioux County, were ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Brad Dirksen, of Plymouth County, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.

#### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Charlie Haywood, of Union, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding manure applicator certification and manure management plan recordkeeping requirements. Haywood has agreed to pay a penalty of \$750. The remainder of the original administrative order remains in effect. The penalty has been paid.

**For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us).**